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Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

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Draft report

Addendum

III. Recommendations and future priorities

1. The Chair introduced the discussion on recommendations and future priorities and drew the attention to the mandate of the Working Group to advise and assist the Conference.

2. The secretariat presented an update on the implementation of resolution 7/5, entitled "Promoting preventive measures against corruption", and resolution 7/6, entitled "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption".

3. In fulfilment of its role as an international observatory for good practices in the prevention of corruption, the secretariat continued to collect information from States parties on their implementation of chapter II of the Convention and to update the website of the Working Group, including its thematic pages.

4. UNODC had supported the development of various anti-corruption policies or strategies in 10 countries and policy assessments in four countries. Comments had been provided on 17 proposed laws or regulations focused on or including corruption prevention provisions, three of which had been adopted during the reporting period. Assistance had also been provided on balancing prevention and sanctions of conflict of interest regimes and on the implementation of asset declaration systems. In addition, three regional events on whistle-blower protection had been held in the Pacific, South Asia and East Africa.

5. UNODC continued the development of relevant teaching modules and curricula to support educational systems at all levels, and supported measures to engage young people in the prevention and reporting of corruption. In addition, UNODC supported efforts to strengthen investigative journalism, the role of parliamentarians in the fight against corruption, integrity in sport and measures to counter corruption in connection to environmental and wildlife crime.

6. During the reporting period, UNODC had provided assistance and training to various anti-corruption bodies. UNODC had also launched the Global Judicial Integrity Network following consultations with approximately 4,000 judges and other relevant justice sector stakeholders, and continued to develop an e-learning course in judicial ethics. Integrity measures had been developed and training provided to prosecutors, law enforcement bodies and prison officials.

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7. Several speakers reported on the different measures they had taken to implement the various provisions of chapter II of the Convention to strengthen the prevention of corruption. Speakers noted measures taken to prevent money-laundering; strengthen audit and internal control measures, as well as public procurement; increase transparency and access to public information; and develop new codes of conduct. One speaker noted the challenges of strengthening asset and interest disclosure systems while balancing measures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal data and requested the Secretariat to consider providing guidance or facilitating the exchange of experiences on that topic. One speaker also referred to the financial support provided by its country to the Secretariat to provide technical assistance on prevention of corruption, in particular the Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) initiative.

8. The Working Group acknowledged the progress that had been made by States parties in relation to preventing and managing conflicts of interest and underlined the need to maintain those efforts. The Working Group encouraged States to prioritize initiatives to manage conflicts of interest and to support each other in the development and implementation of such initiatives, including through the exchange of good practices and experiences.

9. The Working Group took note of the breadth of approaches and measures that had been taken to strengthen integrity in the public administration by introducing asset and interest disclosure systems, reflected in the submissions by States ahead of the meeting. Similarities were noted across many jurisdictions in terms of goals of the system and its main elements. In addition, a number of innovative approaches were highlighted that could be drawn upon by other States parties considering such measures.

10. The Working Group recommended that the topic of the prevention of corruption in the private sector under article 12 of the Convention be included in the workplan of the Group. The discussion could include measures to prevent the solicitation of bribes, information on private sector compliance programmes, book-keeping standards and voluntary self-reporting and could include representatives from the private sector as panellists.

11. The Working Group also recommended that the topic of conflicts of interest be further explored by the Group, including by considering the interlinkages between conflicts of interest and illicit enrichment, asset and interest disclosure systems and reporting persons. In addition, it was suggested that this topic also be considered in the context of balancing such disclosures with measures taken to protect the privacy and confidentiality of personal data.

12. The Working Group further recommended that the topics of the recruitment, hiring and promotion of public officials under article 7, and measures to strengthen the objectivity and transparency of public procurement under article 9 be considered in the future.

13. The Working Group encouraged States parties to continue to strengthen the exchange of information and good practices on the approaches and measures taken to ensure effective verification of the asset and interest declarations and to strengthen the accountability of public officials.

14. The Working Group requested that UNODC continue its efforts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support States parties in the implementation of the relevant articles of the Convention. The Working Group further requested that UNODC continue its efforts to gather information on good practices related to preventing and managing conflicts of interest and to the introduction and functioning of asset and interest disclosure systems, particularly in the context of the second cycle of the Implementation Review Mechanism.

15. The Working Group recalled resolution 7/6, which requested that the Working Group hold at least two meetings before the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties, and requested UNODC, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary

resources, to continue its work as an international observatory, including by updating the thematic website of the Working Group with relevant information. In addition, the Working Group recalled resolution 7/5 identifying as the topic for the Working Group's meeting in 2019 lessons learned in the development, evaluation and impact of anti-corruption strategies (art. 5).